disarmament, development, human right, racial discrimination, terrorism, the environment and other political issues in the UN and international arena.

It was India's endeavour during this Conference to give NAM a modern and forward looking orientation in procedure as well as substance. Our attempt was to make the results action oriented and move away from rhetoric. Apart from the traditional areas of NAM interaction, the Conference also focussed on social areas where South-South interaction has been minimal.

Following another initiative at the conference to further enhance South-South Co-operation in the area of international trade and economic issues, NAM has recently set up a group of eminent economists to study the challenges facing developing countries and make recommendations thereon.

The Delhi Conference decided to hold the next NAM Summit in South Africa in 1998. This is expected to further enhance the strength and prestige of the Movement. India would participate actively in preparations for the summit.

B.D.S. Degrees

51. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether BDS degrees of Kolhapur, Pune and Amaravti are being treated as unrecognised for two years or so by many State Governments and Dental Council of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said degrees have, of late, been recognised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) As per Section 10 (2) of the Dentists Act 1948 any authority or institution in India which grants a dental qualification not included in Part I of the Schedule may apply to the Central Government to have such qualification recognised and included in that Part, and the central Government after consulting the Dental Council of India, and after such inquiry, if any, as it may think fit for the purpose, may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend Part I of the Schedule so as to include such qualification therein, and any such notification may also direct that an entry shall be made in Part I of the Schedule against such dental qualification declaring that it shall be a recognised dental qualification only when granted after a specified date. The matters relating to recognition of BDS degrees of Shivaji University Kolhapur, Pune University and Amaravati University are under active consideration.

Cogentrix

52. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given clearance to the Mangalore Power Company (Cogentrix) to set up a 1000 M.W. Power Plant at Nandikur, Udupi District;

(b) whether some conditions have been imposed by the Karnataka High Court for setting up of the Power Plant;

(c) if so, whether all conditions are to be fulfilled before granting final clearance;

(d) whether environmental safety measures have been taken into consideration to prevent pollution of air, water and space;

(e) whether the Finance Ministry is having reservation in granting investment clearance to the company; and

(f) is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The 1000 MW Mangalore Power Project proposed to be set up by M/s Mangalore Power Company has been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority.

(b) to (d) The project has obtained the no-objection from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests (Government of India), both subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. Writ Petitions Nos. 790 of 1997 and 28651 of 1996 were filed in the High Court of Karnataka, which, inter-alia, questioned the environmental clearance given to the project. The Hon'ble Court, in its judgment delivered on 29th August, 1997 has not imposed any conditions for setting up of the Mangalore Power Project. However, the Court has directed the Central Government to take into consideration the reports/views of certain agencies/ persons and also to take note of criticism of absence of the carrying capacity study and its impact to ascertain whether such information is such that the action taken by the Mangalore Power Company will affect the quality of human life and environment in a singnificant manner or extent which has not already been considered by them and decide the issues arising therein.

(e) The project has been accorded clearance from foreign investment angle by the Government of India.

(f) This does not arise.

Passport Offices

53. DR. G.R. SARODE :
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport Offices with their locations in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more passport offices in various States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There are 28 Passport Offices in the country as on date. A statement showing their locations is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal at present to open more Passport Offices. A proposal for automation of the Passport Offices at a cost of Rs. 28 crores has been approved by the Committee on Non-Plan expenditure. Addition of any new office would alter the parameters of the proposal and delay the tendering process.

STATEMENT

The location of Passport Offices in the Country

1. Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad.
2. Passport Office, Bangalore.
3. Passport Office, Bareilly
4. Passport Office, Bhopal.
5. Regional Passport Office, Bhubneshwar.
6. Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.
7. Regional Passport Office, Calcutta.
8. Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh.
9. Regional Passport Office, Chennai.
10. Regional Passport Office, Cochin.
11. Regional Passport Office, Delhi.
12. Regional Passport Office, Guwahati.
13. Passport Office, Hyderabad.
14. Passport Office, Jaipur.
15. Passport Office, Jallandhar.
16. Passport Office, Kozhikode.
17. Passport Office, Lucknow.
18. Passport Office, Nagpur.
19. Passport Office, Panaji.
20. Passport Office, Patna.
21. Passport Office, Tiruchirapalli.
22. Passport Office, Trivandrum.
23. Passport Office, Jammu.
24. Passport Office, Ghaziabad.
25. Passport Office, Vishakhapatnam.
26. Passport Office, Thane.
27. Passport Office, Srinagar.
28. Passport Office, Pune, (Being set up).

Purchase of Blood

54. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the reports regarding buying of contaminated blood sets by the city's Safdarjung Hispital's Blood Bank appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 19, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any inquiry into the buying of blood which is unfit for use; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the finding thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The hospitals does not buy blood as only donors are accepted. Regarding the news item of contaminated blood sets, the matter was investigated by